

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER:SM

APPROVED BY S/PRS - JOHN TRATTNER

S/S - FVORTIZ

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P 202101Z OCT 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 248947 TOSEC 160092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, OCTOBER 20, 1975

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

NO. 8

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SPOKESMAN (TRATTNER) HAD FOLLOW-
ING REPLIES:

1. REPORTED GRAIN DEAL WITH SOVIETS: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, IN LEAVING MOSCOW TODAY, SAID THERE WOULD BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT SHORTLY. NOTHING TO ADD.
2. REPORTED U.S. WARNING TO ISRAEL (VIA AMBASSADOR TOON) NOT TO INTERVENE IN LEBANON: SITUATION IN LEBANON IS VERY DELICATE. THE LESS SAID ABOUT IT FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE BETTER; AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON STORIES (IN "HA'ARETZ") OF THE KIND MENTIONED. AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE, WE DO NOT GET INTO DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS. IN GENERAL, WOULD REMIND YOU OF STATEMENT BY SPOKESMAN ANDERSON AFTER SECRETARY'S MEETING IN NEW YORK WITH TAQLA AND REITERATION LAST

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 -- THAT LEBANON IS ONE OF OUR CLOSEST

FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WE HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN ITS CONTINUING INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NATIONAL UNITY AND COHESION. ASKED IF THIS REMINDER WAS INTENDED AS A MESSAGE TO ISRAEL, SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS A GENERAL STATEMENT OF U.S. POLICY ON LEBANON, NOT IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ABOUT AMBASSADOR TOON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE248947
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHTRATTNER:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750364-0052
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751040/aaaabjlf.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, OCTOBER 20, 1975 FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS
TAGS: SOPN, EAGR, ETRD, PFOR, PORS, US, UR, IS, LE, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (TRATTNER, JOHN)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006